

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—

On the military timetable for the Far East are several important moves in addition to unfreezing the Chinese Nationalist fleet at Formosa. They include:

1. Sending two U. S. Airborne divisions to Okinawa. From this point they could go on to Korea, if needed, or to reserve duty in Japan.

2. Sending a major amount of supplies to Indo-China. This is the lollipop Secretary Dulles will hold out to the French. So far supplies to Indo-China have been merely in dribblets.

3. Transfer captive Chinese prisoners from Korea to Formosa if they want to go; strengthen the Chinese Nationalist Navy; send more supplies to Chiang.

4. Dulles himself will go to the Far East in May.

It's believed that the threat of naval raids along the China coast, and the possible threat of airborne divisions on Okinawa may prevent the Chinese Reds from sending more troops and supplies into Indo-China, also more troops to Korea. The Far Eastern picture, according to the military planners, must be dealt with as a whole. The Kremlin does it that way, and we must do likewise.

Ammunition Shortage

IN MY FILES is a rather important memo which I have never published. It's dated Dec. 15, 1951. Part of it can be published now, because General Eisenhower, following his trip to Korea, touched on the same thing. The memo states:

"The whole U. S. Army is currently plagued with a most critical shortage of artillery ammunition. In the event of all-out war, we would have only five days supply of 105-MM ammunition . . ."

This information was not published when I received it more than a year ago for the obvious reason that publication might have encouraged enemy attacks. Perhaps if it had been published, however, our production men would have been goaded into action.

For today, the situation, while improved, is such that it was one of the most worrisome factors found by General Eisenhower in Korea. Furthermore, the ammunition shortage is still such that the United States simply cannot send more supplies to Korea, and to Indo-China, and to other parts of the world all at the same time. We'll be lucky to have enough for Korea alone.

In other words, we can make

all sorts of military plans but we can't carry them out until we lick our worst bottleneck—production.

Conant's Headache

INSIDE FACT about Dr. James Conant's appointment as high commissioner to Germany is that he turned down the job once, said he could not leave his post as President of Harvard. In fact, the Eisenhower staff almost gave up the idea of appointing him.

Then Gov. Sherman Adams of New Hampshire said he thought they should make one more try, and that he would approach Dr. Conant again. He did so, telling Conant that

Eisenhower was anxious to get the very top men of the nation to serve under him, and that no part of the world was more important for peace or war than Germany.

So President Conant yielded. Now, with a political storm raging around his head, he wishes he hadn't.

The Senate debate over his confirmation illustrates the same problem Truman complained about, namely the difficulty of persuading good men to serve the government if they are subject to Senate attack.

The campaign against Conant was so carefully organized that copies of the Boston Post carrying an eight-column streamer headline against him were distributed by messenger to Senators' offices in Washington on the afternoon of the same day it was published in Boston.

Senator McCarthy also had researchers working in New York digging into every phase of Conant's life, with William F. Buckley, Jr., author of "God and Man at Yale," helping him on the side.

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